



# News Release

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## **Wagon Wheel motel license suspended — allegedly unsafe, unhealthy**

*Guests can't stay at King County inn; owner may request hearing*

**OLYMPIA** — Numerous unsafe conditions have led the state Department of Health to immediately suspend the license of the Wagon Wheel Motel in King County. The motel at 8042 N.E. Bothell Way in Kenmore poses an immediate threat to guests.

According to investigators, the motel violated construction, maintenance, fire, and safety codes. The motel must be vacated by midnight January 25; the state health department is working with local officials to help guests in need of housing. The Wagon Wheel can't reopen until a hearing is held.

Alleged conditions of the motel include non-working smoke detectors; a rodent infestation; impaired access in and out of the doors of each unit because a storage shed is in the way; and signs of neglect and decay — such as rotten deck railings. The motel owner has 10 days to request a prompt hearing and 28 days to contest these charges.

Motels offering three or more units to guests for less than 30 days must be licensed by the state's Transient Accommodations Program. The program licenses about 1,700 motels, hotels, inns, resorts, and bed and breakfast facilities in the state. It enforces health and safety standards for those establishments.

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Visit the Washington Department of Health Web site at <http://www.doh.wa.gov> for a healthy dose of information.